

# ***1999 LOUISIANA HEALTH REPORT CARD***

**As mandated by R.S. 40:1300.71**

**M.J. "Mike" Foster  
Governor**

**David W. Hood  
Secretary, Department of Health and Hospitals**

**Submitted to the Governor and the Louisiana Legislature  
March 29, 1999**

# **1999 Louisiana Health Report Card**

## **Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals Office of Public Health**

Jimmy Guidry, MD  
Assistant Secretary

Joseph D. Kimbrell, MA, BCSW  
Deputy Assistant Secretary

J. Mark Shields, MD, MPH, MS  
Director, Division of Health Information

William Barlow, MPH  
Director, State Center for Health Statistics  
State Registrar

### **Editor**

Stacey Wiles, MPH  
State Center for Health Statistics

### **Production Staff: State Center for Health Statistics**

Joan Borstell, MS  
Ya-Hui Hsueh, MSPH  
Pei-yu Wang, MPH

Shenkang Yu, MS  
Hsin-Yi Weng, MPH  
Christine Romalewski, MPH

### **Technical and Editorial Assistance**

Bob Rohlin, MSPH    Liz Sumrall, MPA

### **Cover Design**

Auxiliary Enterprises  
Louisiana State University Medical School in New Orleans

The Louisiana State Center for Health Statistics would like to thank all of the individuals within the Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals and the Louisiana Office of Public Health who provided us with data or assisted us in the development of this document.

A Publication of  
State Center for Health Statistics  
Louisiana Office of Public Health  
325 Loyola Avenue, Suite 106  
New Orleans, LA 70112  
504/568-5337



M.J. "Mike" Foster Jr.  
GOVERNOR

STATE OF LOUISIANA  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HOSPITALS



David W. Hood  
SECRETARY

March 1999

Dear Governor Foster and Members of the Louisiana Legislature:

On behalf of the Department of Health and Hospitals (DHH), it is my great pleasure to present the fourth annual Louisiana Health Report Card in accordance with R.S. 40:1300.71. This legislation, as mandated in the 1995 Regular Legislative Session, has permitted DHH the opportunity to compile information on the health status of Louisiana. The Report Card provides morbidity- and mortality-related statistics, information on current assessment and prevention initiatives, and recommendations to improve the health status of the state's citizens through enhanced programming and increased access to care.

The DHH mission is to protect and promote health, and to ensure access to treatment, preventive, and rehabilitative services for all citizens of the State of Louisiana. DHH is dedicated to fulfilling its mission by providing quality services in the most efficient and cost-effective manner possible, assisting in the development and furnishing of services by other entities, and looking ahead to constantly raise our standards. The information contained in this report reinforces the importance of the DHH mission and reaffirms our commitment to target resources and manpower in those areas where they are most needed.

We submit this report to you and gladly welcome feedback, in our ongoing effort to improve its usefulness. We also welcome discussion on ways in which we can work together to improve the health status of Louisiana.

Sincerely,

David W. Hood  
Secretary

